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## ANTHROPOLOGY.

THE FLATTEST TIBIA ON RECORD.—In the Fourth Annual Report of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology (1871), reference is made (pp. 21, 22,) to a certain tibia obtained by me with other similar relics, in 1869, from an ancient mound on the River Rouge in Michigan. It is mentioned as the most extreme case of the flattening of this bone, the transverse being only 0.48 of the fore and aft diameter. Tibiæ from mounds in other parts of the country give the extent of this flattening as 0.60; and in the “most marked case mentioned by Broca, viz., in the old man from Cro-Magnon” (France), it was 0.60.—But I have lately met with several cases presenting this flatness in even a greater extreme; and I have now in my possession two tibiæ, evidently of great antiquity, taken from a mound on the Detroit River, in one of which the short is 0.42 of the long diameter, and in the other only 0.40. This last, therefore, may be considered as the flattest tibia on record. In both, the bone is curved, being remarkably convex forwards. A large amount of the most interesting relics of the ancient mound-builders was associated with these bones, which were selected from among the remains of eleven human bodies. Some of these relics give evidence of the identity of this race with those of the “ancient miners” of Lake Superior, or, at least, of their intercourse; others give evidence of traffic with the southern races—perhaps along the Gulf of Mexico. In all of the mounds along the Detroit River and its tributary the River Rouge, I find a large majority of the tibiæ presenting this flattening. This appears to be an exception to the facts as noted in other parts of the country where the flattening has been estimated as pertaining to “only about one-third of all the individuals observed.” Here a tibia not flattened is the exception. And I would further state that where this bone is found approximating to the equilateral, it is manifestly of subsequent burial, and of much later date. This region, at the junction of the Detroit and Rouge rivers, was known formerly as “the Paradise of the Indians,” and they evidently congregated here in large numbers.

Prof. Wyman’s interesting comparison of the mound-builders with the ancient races of Europe, in which the flattening of the tibia was one of the peculiarities, as also his allusions to the same

characteristic in the corresponding bones of the ape, will not fail to receive attention. He says—"In some of the tibiæ the amount of flattening surpasses that of the gorilla and chimpanzee, in each of which we found the short 0.67 of the long diameter, while in the tibia from Michigan it was only 0.48." Similar comparisons of the other bones, particularly of a large number of crania and of the pelvis, are equally suggestive, and render this one of the most valuable of the reports issued by the trustees.—HENRY GILMAN, *Detroit, Michigan*.

THE TANIS STONE: A NEW TRILINGUAL.—A trilingual stone recently discovered in excavations made at Tanis, on the eastern or Pelusiac branch of the Nile, has been deposited in the Museum of Egyptian antiquities at Cairo. It is a perfect stela, about six feet high, two and a half feet broad, and a foot thick, the summit arched. The inscriptions cover one entire face and most of one side; hieroglyphics occupy about three-fifths (the upper portion) of the face, the Greek version the remainder, while the Demotic translation covers scarcely more than two-thirds (the upper part) of the left side. The letters are small, closely crowded, and all perfect and sharply cut, the stone not having been defaced in the slightest degree; in the extent and perfection of the inscriptions, it is, therefore, much superior to the "Rosetta stone." Plaster casts of the Tanis stone have recently been taken, and copies sent to the museums of London and Berlin; and through the intercession of the American consul, Col. Butler, at the instance of Rev. Dr. Lansing, one of the American missionaries stationed at Cairo, a copy is now preparing for Monmouth College, in Illinois.—S. H. SCUDDER.



## GEOLOGY.

REMARKS ON FOSSIL VERTEBRATES FROM WYOMING.—Prof. Leidy remarked that the collection of fossils presented at the meeting of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science, August 8, by Drs. J. Van A. Carter and Joseph K. Corson were of unusual interest. They consist of remains mainly of turtles, with those of mammals and crocodiles, and were obtained from the Tertiary deposits in the vicinity of Fort Bridger, Wyoming Territory.

The great abundance of remains of turtles, of many species and genera, of fresh-water and terrestrial habit, obtained in Wy-